

HOW JESUS WILL RETURN

Sharing

1. Do you believe that the world will end when Jesus comes?
 - Explain: _____
2. Are you frightened by thoughts of Jesus' Second Coming?
 - Discuss: _____
3. Do you believe that the Second Coming of Jesus will be literal? ____ Yes ____ No
 - Explain your answer: _____

Studying

4. In the New Testament Jesus Christ spent more time talking about His Second Coming than any other topic. One of the most familiar passages of Scripture is the promise Jesus made shortly before His crucifixion and ascension.
 - Read John 14:1-3 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will _____ again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."
5. The Bible has a lot to say about the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. When Jesus was on trial for His life, some people falsely testified about Him and He did not respond. At last the priest put Jesus under oath of God and then he answered. What He said is significant to our understanding of His Second Coming.
 - Read Matthew 26:63-64 "But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the _____, the Son of God!" Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the _____ of heaven."
6. If Jesus Himself said He was coming back on the clouds of heaven we can be assured that He will return. Furthermore, we learn from God's Word that His coming will be very visible.
 - Read Matthew 24:27 "For as lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the _____ of the Son of Man be."
 - Read Matthew 24:30 "Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great _____."
7. The Apostle John, the last living disciple, wrote in the Book of Revelation words that emphasize and corroborate what the Disciple Matthew wrote about the Second Coming of Jesus.
 - Read Revelation 1:7 "Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every _____ will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen."

8. Many believe that there will be a secret 'rapture' that silently removes the saints from the earth without prior notice. (The word 'rapture' is not in the Bible. It is a word that means 'caught up.') These folks believe that nobody will know where these millions of people went—they will just 'be gone' from the earth. Is that what the Bible says will happen?
- Read 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17 "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a _____, with the voice of an archangel, and with the _____ of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord."
9. The Second Coming of Jesus Christ will not be a silent event according to the Word of God. It will be visible, loud and every eye will see it. In fact, it will awaken earth's sleeping dead.
- Read 1 Corinthians 15:51,52 "Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last _____. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."
10. Is it possible that the saints of God will be raptured secretly from this earth? There isn't the slightest doubt that Jesus' Second Coming will be an awesome event that ends this world's history! There will be nothing secret about it.
- Read Luke 17:24 "For as the lightning that flashes out of one part under heaven _____ to the other part under heaven, so also the Son of Man will be in His day." We will not mistake the real coming of Jesus Christ."
11. Verses in Luke 17:26-36 are often used to justify a belief in a secret rapture. In these verses Jesus was describing the condition of the world just prior to His return and explaining that not everyone would be saved. Jesus stressed that only those who were ready would be saved.
- Read Luke 17:26 "And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the _____ came and destroyed them all." This will be the condition of the world just before Jesus returns.
 - Read Luke 17:28-30 "Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is _____." Just as it was in the days of Lot, so it will be when sudden destruction overtakes the world at Jesus' coming.
 - Read Luke 17:31-33 "In that day, he who is on the housetop, and his goods are in the house, let him not come down to take them away. And likewise the one who is in the field, let him _____ turn back. Remember Lot's wife. Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it." Jesus is saying that although Lot's wife left the city, her heart was still with it. She was not committed to leave the world behind. We need to be ready and committed to Jesus Christ.
 - Read Luke 17:34 "I tell you, in that night there will be two men in one bed: the one will be taken and the other will be _____." Again, Jesus is pointing out that not everybody will be saved. Only those who have prepared and are ready will be saved.
 - Read Luke 17:35-36 "Two women will be grinding together: the one will be taken and the other left. Two men will be in the field: the one will be taken and the other _____." Jesus' point is that the wicked who are left behind will be dead. They will be struck dead by the brightness of His coming.
- 2 Thess. 2:8

10. Jesus preached throughout His ministry the importance of watching and being ready for His Second Coming.
 - Read Matthew 24:42 “Watch therefore, for you do not know what _____ your Lord is coming.”

11. When Jesus said that ‘one would be taken and the other left behind,’ the disciples asked Jesus where they would be taken.
 - Read Luke 17:37 “And they answered and said to Him, Where, Lord? So He said to them, ‘Wherever the body is, there the _____ will be gathered together.’ Jesus is telling them that those left behind will be dead because the birds of prey will be gathered to eat the carcasses. They definitely were NOT raptured into heaven secretly. Note that they also will therefore have no second chance.

12. God gives us chances every single day of our lives for salvation. Once Jesus comes there will never again be another chance to be saved.
 - Read 2 Corinthians 6:2 “I tell you, _____ is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.” We should never put off making a decision for Jesus Christ because we do not know what tomorrow might bring.

13. Where did the Secret Rapture theory originate?
 - The secret rapture theory is not found in the Word of God.
 - In 1830, in Scotland, a young lady named Margaret McDonald, was very sick and believed to be dying. (Prior to becoming ill, she had been involved in the early 1800s revived Pentecostal movement of speaking in tongues and being ‘slain’ in the Spirit.) During her illness she had a vision in which she was shown that Jesus Christ would return to this earth in two stages: 1) a secret removal of the saints from the earth before the period of predicted tribulation and 2) Jesus would come in the clouds of glory, with the raptured ‘saints,’ to set up a millennial kingdom on this earth to fight the antichrist.
 - A very popular Irish preacher of that day, John Darby (1800-1882), went to Scotland and listened to Margaret McDonald relate her vision. He believed her. He then began preaching her vision—the theory that Jesus would come in two stages.
 - In America, Cyrus Scofield (1843-1921), accepted this two-stage belief of McDonald. In 1917, Scofield published a commentary alongside the verses of the KJV Bible. In his commentary he explained the two-stage return of Christ as fact. As people bought and read the Scofield Bible, they believed him. So, the belief slipped into Protestant churches all over the United States and then to the world and became part of evangelical Christian beliefs in the late 20th century.
 - The ‘Left Behind’ series, 16 best-selling novels by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins, puts forth supposedly accurate end-of-the-world events that include: Christian dispensationalism, pretribulation rapture and a premillennial Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Absolutely none of these beliefs are in the Word of God yet millions of good people believe these things are true because of the popularity of the books and the movies that followed the books.
 - Read Hebrews 9:27 “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the _____.”

14. There is great danger in becoming so busy with the every day routines of this life or so involved by the pleasures of sin that the coming of the Lord may not seem important or real—as the possibility of a flood that would destroy the world seemed unimportant and unreal to the people in Noah’s day. The people in Noah’s day were surprised, unprepared, and lost—but it was too late. Now is the accepted time allotted to us by God to prepare to live in heaven with Him.

15. Satan does everything he can to divert our minds from preparing for salvation. He does not want us to be saved. We are told to live godly in the present age. The fact is, when we die —the next thing we will see is the face of Jesus Christ and the judgment.
- Read Titus 2:11-14 “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the _____ age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”
16. In Revelation 19 we see a striking figurative picture of Jesus Second Coming:
- Read Revelation 19:11 “Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes _____.” White typifies holiness of character and now Christ appears, figuratively, as a warrior, riding forth as a conqueror on a magnificent white charger to occupy His lawful domain and to escort His faithful people back to the “marriage supper” of verse 9.
 - Read Revelation 19:12 “His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a _____ written that no one knew except Himself.” The “name written, that no man knew, but he himself” represents the heretofore unknown role in which He now appears, as the avenger of His people.
 - Read Revelation 19:13 “He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.”
 - Read Revelation 19:14 “And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean followed Him on white horses.” This army is the angelic hosts that accompany Christ at His second advent.
17. Just as the Word of God is wrapping up the story of redemption in the Book of Revelation we see the fulfillment of prophecy as Jesus Christ, in figurative language, returns to earth. We see in Revelation 19:15 that Jesus, with a sharp two-edge sword will strike the nations. What happens when He strikes the nations?
- Read Revelation 19:15 “Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nation And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and _____ of Almighty God.” By the word of the Lord the earth and its inhabitants were brought into being (Ps. 33:6, 9), and now, by the word of His mouth, He terminates their existence.
 - Read Revelation 19:21 “And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.” (Same story Jesus told in Luke 17:37.)
18. The Word of God is very clear: Christ will descend with power and great glory, the dead will rise, and we who are alive and remain, who have served and loved God, will rise to meet Him in the air. The wicked along with Satan and his angels, will be destroyed forever. Never again will sin arise in the universe.
19. Going to heaven is a choice. God gives us every day of our lives to make a decision for Him. He also has given us the Holy Spirit to continually draw us to the Savior. When He comes there will be no excuse for any of us to be lost, unless we choose to live a life contrary to His will.

Applying this lesson

20. When Jesus left this earth He left His disciples with a promise that He would come again. The second coming of Jesus Christ is the hope of believers all over the world. He is faithful to the promises and prophecies in His Word. The Bible speaks of Jesus return 1,518 times.
- From the study of this lesson I have learned that the Second Coming of Jesus will be visible to every single person on earth. It also will be so loud that the dead are awakened.
 - _____ A check mark at left indicates that I believe in the Second Coming of Jesus Christ that will end earth's history as we know it now.
21. In His first coming, Jesus Christ came to earth as a baby in a manger in Bethlehem, just as prophesied. Jesus fulfilled the prophecies of the Messiah during His birth, life, ministry, death, and resurrection. However, the prophecies of His return are not yet fulfilled.
- I believe that the Second Coming of Christ will fulfill these remaining prophecies.
 - _____ I check mark at left indicates my desire to prepare now for the Second Coming of Jesus.
22. The secret rapture theory is not Biblical. That theory was espoused in 1830 by Margaret McDonald in Scotland and propagated to the world through the preaching of John Darby. It was made to seem 'doctrinal' by Cyrus Scofield when he published it as factual commentary in the King James Version of the Bible in 1917. It became popularized by the recent 'Left Behind' series of 16 novels.
- After studying this lesson, I do not believe that Jesus Christ will come in two stages nor do I believe that He will establish a 'millennial kingdom' on this earth to fight the anti-Christ as purported by many evangelicals today.
 - _____ A check mark at left indicates that I believe that Jesus Christ will return to this earth and that there will be no second chance. The life I now live is my only chance in which to prepare for salvation.